BY L. T. MEADE AND ROBERT

EUSTACE.

No. 5 Twenty Degrees.

The Brotherhood of the Seven Kings

A hot and sultry day toward the end inclination to resume my experiments in the laboratory. The night grew more and more sultry, and a thunderstorm just finished dinner and returned to my threatened. laboratory to continue some spectro- Between 11 and 12 o'clock I was just scopic work, when Dufrayer, whom I preparing to retire for the night, when had not seen for more than a week, door. The servants had all gone to walked in. Noticing that I was busy, bed. In some surprise I went to open he took a cigar from a box which lay the door. A woman in a voluminous on the table and sank into an easy chair without speaking.

asked at last, as I descended from my hall.

"At Eastbourne. The Assizes begin at the Old Bailey, as you know, on Thursday, and I am conducting the defense in the case of the Disney murder. However, I have not come here to talk shop. I had a small adventure at Fast

usually grave. "Come into the garden; we will have coffee there."

We went through the open French windows and ensconced ourselves in

wicker chairs. "Does it ever occur to you," said Dufrayer, taking his cigar from his mouth as he spoke, "that you and I are in personal danger? It is absurd to lull ourselves into security by saying that such things do not happen in our day, but my only surprise is that Mme. Ko-

"There is a possibility that it may have something to do with it, but of that I am not certain. In all likelihood, Head, there are no two men in London in such a strange position as ours."

"It is a self-elected one, at any rate,"

"You are a strange girl, and have

"It is a self-elected one, at any rate,"
I replied. I replied.
"True," he answered. "Well, I will tell you what happened, and the further sequel which occurred this even- are doing. What is the matter?" ing. I had been feeling rather done, and as I had a few days to spare, rooms, and I will explain." thought I would spend them geologizing I opened the door of my study and along the cliffs at Eastbourne. On asked her to walk in. Tuesday last I went out for the whole cliffs toward Burling Gap. I was so engrossed in my discovery of some very curious pieces of iron pyrites, for which that part of the coast is noted. that I forgot the time, and darkness this evening, I felt there was nothing set in before I turned for home. The whatever for it but to come to you and tide was luckily low, so I had nothing to fear. I had just rounded the point on which the lighthouse sainds when, on which the lighthouse sainds when, to my amazement, I heard a strict ould seed and turned round, but at first could seed one me's great and awful wrong. I will average myself on her or die."

Is the purpose. Do you mind assuming the purpose, beyon the least idea, Miss Fancourt, what is the seed in a light gray suit and a cloth cap. I was just going to address him when he raised his hand as if in warning, and said quickly, in a low veice: 'Don't return to London-stay here—you are in danger.' 'What do you mean?' I asked. He made no reply, tell you how the blow will fall, for I a few moments. You can leave the moments are not and turned the pin-point publis of done me's great and awful wrong. I will average myself the pin-point publis of some me's great and awful wrong. I will average myself on her or die."

It may first done so for years, and find the pin-point publis of some me's great and awful wrong. I will average myself on her or die."

It may first done so for years, and find the pin-point publis of some me's great and awful wrong. I will average myself on her or die."

It may first done so for years, and find the pin-point publis of one me's great and awful wrong. I will average myself on her or die."

It may first done so for years, and find the pin-point publis of one we's great and awful wrong. I will average myself on her or die."

It may first done so for years, and in facts could seed in him. My week. I have greater part of the least ides, Miss Fancourt, and in the cleast ides, Miss Fancourt, and in the

sibility that the adventure may wear an ugly aspect. Two conclusions may more? arrived at with regard to it: one, that this warning was intended to keep you at Eastbourne for some dangerous object; the other, that it was a friend-

defend my life if necessary. But that small incident has stuck to me in a curious way. Of course it is quite imfrom your manner that you are speak-

came by the last post.

As Dufrayer spoke he drew a letter "Yes" from his pocket and thrust it into my

I took it to the window, where, by the light of a lamp inside the room, I read

'Meet me inside gates, Marble arch, at 10 tonight. Do not fail. You have

t back to him. "What do you mean

may be a trap to lead you into danger. "Under those circumstances I must I do not see anything for it but for you see you again," continued Miss Fanto pursue the even tener of your way, court.

Just as if there were no Mme. Koluchy in the world."

I may in the world."

the sands. My unknown correspondent must keep bis rendezvous in vain. I won't stay any longer this evening.

am terribly busy getting up my case for Thursday. Good-night."

When he was gone I sat out of doors a little longer, pondering much over the two warnings which he had received. she paused and half smiled—"to tune and which I had thought best to make a piano, for instance.

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"I will soon explain myself. The piano tuner is expected at our house to morrow. Will you come in his place? I will send him a line the moment I will send knowing Mmc.

Koluchy as I did, I felt certain that no depths of treachery were beyond her powers.

"I will send him a line the moment I worse than useless; but, try as I would, worse than useless; but, try as I would, but felt little powers.

"There is," she repled. "He is the man about whom I am speaking. Now man about whom I am speaking. Now me closely. Mr. North, who was educated abroad and spent it to E. F., "Poste Restante," St. Martin's-le-Grand.

To think ever the enigma which Miss Fancourt had presented to me seemed worse than useless; but, try as I would, one of his managing clerks at a salary of four guineas a week."

The is the man about whom I am speaking. Now me a piut it into an envelope, and addressed it to E. F., "Poste Restante," St. Martin's-le-Grand.

To think ever the enigma which Miss Fancourt had presented to me seemed worse than useless; but, try as I would, it could not banish it from my thoughts, and I even owned to a sense of relief when, on the following day, about 2 when the single word "No" of the piano tuner, and will suppose that the bear about when the single word "No" of the piano tuner is parting. The piano tuner is the two of blank paper, folded it up, and suppose the please follow me closely. Mr. North, who was educated abroad and spent in the time, and a piut it into an envelope, and address

standing on the threshold. The moment the door was opened and before I could "What is it tonight, Norman?" he say a word, she had stepped into the

stool. "Is it the Elixir of Life or the Philosopher's Store?"

"Don't keep me out," she said, in a breathless voice. "I am followed, and "Neither," I replied. "I have received some interesting specimens of reduced haemoglobin, and am experimenting on them. By the way, where have you been all this week?"

there is danger. Mr. Dufrayer has failed to keep his appointment, and I was forced to come here. I know you, Mr. Head. I know all about you, and also about Mr. Dufrayer. Let me speak

shop. I had a small adventure at East- the voice was young. Without a word I bourne, and have come to tell you shut the hall door. As I did so she reabout it."

"More developments?" I asked, slightly startled by his tone, which was unly startled by his tone, which was unHer skin was of a clear olive, and her eyes black.

"My name is Elsie Fancourt," she said. "My home is at Henley. My mother is the widow of a barrister. Our address is 5 Gloucester Gardens, Albert Road, Henley. Will you remember it?

"Will you make a note of it?" "I can remember it without that," I

but my only surprise is that Mme. Ko-luchy has not yet struck a blow at either of us. The thought of her haunts

"Very good. You may need that ad-dress later on. Now, Mr. Head, you are thinking strange things of me, but I am me: she fights with almost omnipotent powers, and we cannot foresee from what quarter the shaft may come."

not, in the ordinary sense of the word, an adventuress. I am a lady—one in sore, sore straits. I have come to you "You have a reason for saying this?" I interrupted. "Has it anything to do with your visit to the seaside?" sole, sole straits. I have come to you in my desperate need, because I believe you and also Mr. Dufrayer are in the gravest, danger. Will you trust me?"

"The matter is one of life and day on a long expedition under the death," she began. "Mr. Dufrayer has

here—you are in danger. 'What do you mean?' I asked. He made no reply, and before I could repeat my question had left me, and was continuing his rapid course toward the promontory. I shouted after him. 'Stop! who are you?' but in another moment I completely lost sight of him in the dark shadow of the cliffs. I ran forward, but not a trace of him could I see. I shouted, there was no answer. I then made up my mind that pursuit was useless, and imminent danger of his life. I cannot tell you how the blow will fall, for I a few moments. You can leave the somewhat ancient instrument, when hiss Fancourt required, and soon afterward she took her leave.

I promised to do as Miss Fancourt required, and soon afterward she took her leave.

A few moment's later I was on my way to Dufrayer's flat. He kept late thours, and I was relieved to see lights strument today; but you must not go before you have had some lunch. I have asked the servant to bring it in.''

That there was no answer. I then made up my mind that pursuit was useless, and

the youth, whoever he was, happened portant case at the criminal courts. self, took his leave. to know your name, there is just a pos-

She turned white to her lips. "I know all that," she answered. ly warning given for some reason in Dufrayer is placed, and what he has to this strange manner." do this week. She has made her plans "You arrive precisely at my own views on the subject," replied Dufrayer. "I am not a nervous man, and can nothing? Can you not believe in the real-

possible for me to leave town. The Disney murder trial comes on this week Mme. Koluchy to be sure of the gravity and as there are many complications it will occupy some days; but, Head, try as I will, the impression of that boy's warning will not wear off; and now, listen, there is a sequel. See; this "Will you see him tonight?" she

> "Yes." "Thank you."

"He is certain to refuse to go," I said. "It is right to give him your warning, but he will disregard it.'

'Poste Restante.' I will go to St. Mar-tin's-le-Grand early tomorrow morn-ing to obtain it. Put nothing within the letter but the word 'No.' Don't terous; it cannot go on. My work "For heaven's sake, speak out," I "What would you do in my place?" ing to obtain it. Put nothing within asked Dufrayer, shifting the question. The gazed at me earnestly, and with sign your name."

It is a pour name."

reiled anxiety in his face,
"Take no notice," I said. "The letter is anonymous, and as likely as not ter," I replied.
"Under those circumstances I must "Under those circumstanc

I made no reply. "It is better for me not to communi-It was half-past 9 o'clock, the moon was rising, and Dufrayer's grave face, with his dark brows knit, confronted mine. After a time he rose.

"I believe you are right," he said. "I "I believe you are right," he said. "I night. I dare not risk the chance of shall disregard that letter as I disremeeting you in the ordinary way. Let

> She stood still, leaning her hand against her check. "Are you musical?" she asked sud-

"Fairly so," I replied.
"Do you know enough of music to"—
she paused and half smiled—"to tune a piano, for instance.
"What do you mean?" I asked.
"I will soon explain myself. The piano tuner is expected at our house tomorrow. Will you come in his place? I will send him a line the moment I get home, telling him to postpone his visit, but will let our servant think of the single word "No" on a speaking. Now please follow me closely. Mr. North, who was educated abroad and spent tin's-le-Grand.

To think ever the enigma which Miss Fancourt had presented to me seemed worse than useless; but, try as I would, yisit, but will let our servant think I could not banish it from my thoughts.

I could not banish it from my thoughts. I returned to the house, but felt little you are the man we usually employ for o'clock. I presented myself, as the sup- looked an intelligent fellow, and



your word that what I am about to say

"His life is in danger," she said. "By

"Yes, I will explain myself. I am cer-

tain that when you know all you will give the promise which is absolutely

necessary for my own salvation and the salvation of one dearer to me than

myself. Six months ago I became en-

"North!" I said. "North." I felt puz-

The girl proceeded without noticing

"There is a managing clerk of the name of North in Dufrayer's office," I

zied by the memory

luck to secure him. He is a wonderful-ly well educated fellow and knows seving our little servant out for some mefor the last three months. I cannot way. A man was here questioning irer tell you what a relief it is to have a only this morning. Oh, you make a

his shoulders. But you have news, looking at me with a smile, which van-ished almost as soon as it came. "But Dufrayer pulled a chair forward for now to business. So your friend rene without saying a word. He stood fuses to leave town. facing me while I told my story. When I had finished he gave his shoulders a that it was quite impossible for him to slight shrug, and then said:

pects," I replied "And she coolly asks you to come to will never, under any circumstances, me to request me to throw my client pass your lips?" over at the eleventh hour and to leave

"She certainly believes that your will be one to you." danger is real," I answered. She looked at me

"Ah! you think so?"

"I am positive."

"In that case something else must edone, and I must know immediate"I would be something to the winds a pretty pass when a man is hard to the winds a pretty pass when be able to do something."

be done, and I must know immediate"Your correspondent makes a strange
rendezvous," I remarked, as I handed
it back to him. "What do you meen to the case something else must a pretty pass when a man is hunted in this fashion," he continued. "A respectable London solicitor is converted in the spectable London solicitor is converted in the case something else must a pretty pass when a man is hunted in this fashion," he continued. "A respectable London solicitor is converted in the case something else must a pretty pass when a man is hunted in this fashion, he continued. "A respectable London solicitor is converted in the case something else must be done, and I must know immediately. If your friend refuses, send a letter to E. F., general postoffice, marked in the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and I must know immediatein the case something else must be done, and it is the case something else must be done, and it is the case something else must be done. The case something else must be done else must be done else must be done.

The case somethin the this time tomorrow he may be-" Sho gn your name."

"In case my friend decides not to ave town you shall have such a letmachinations. I shall go to Scotland Yard early tomorrow and see Ford The thing is a perfect nightmare." "I told Miss Fancourt you would not

'And you did right," he said. "Nevertheless, I believe in her," I Dufrayer gave me one of those slow,

inscrutable smiles which now and then my interruption flitted across his strong face. "I love John North," she said slow-"You always were a bit of an eniy. "If necessary, I would die for him.
thusiast, Head," he replied, "but the I would go to any risk to save him fact is I have no time to worry over this matter now. All my energies of mind and body must be exerted on behalf of that unfortunate man, the conduct of whose trial has been placed in "There is a managing clerk of the

cated matters are. Almost immediately after our engagement, John North
got into madame's set. I do not know
how he first had an introduction to her,
although I sometimes think he must
have met her long ago in Italy. She
evidently holds the deepest fascination have met her long ago in Italy. She evidently holds the deepest fascination over him, for he was never tired of talking of her, her wonderful house, her fame, her beauty, and the strange power she had over each person with whom she came in contact. One day he told me that through her agency, although her name did not appear in the matter, she had got him an excellent appointment as managing clerk in the office of your friend."

I started. My attention was now

keenly aroused.
"This," continued Miss Fancourt, "was three months ago. Mr. Head. I arrived in London between 6 and 7 has altered, the sun has got behind clouds, the sky is black. I am the most miserable girl on earth."

"And you liked his appearance?"

"He is wonderfully so. Six months room. ago, when first we were engaged, his face used to wear the brightest, keenest expression, now it is haggard, rest- spirit lamp of uncommon shape stood less—each day something of good leaves it and something of evil takes its place. Something, yes, something is eating into his youth, his manhood, and his beauty. He is changed to me—I believe he has almost lest the consistent of the table. I immediately guessed what was happening. When I interrupted him he was indulging in opium smoke. He was drawing in the pernicious, the awful drug, and did not care that I should interfere with the beauty. He is changed to me—I believe he has almost lost the capacity of loving any one. My love, however, is unaltered, for I know there is a spell over him. When it is removed he will be his own old self again. Three weeks ago, Mr. Head, I swore I would discover what was wrong. Unknown to any one, I followed John North to a house in Mayfair. He went there with a larger was only one way to do this. I must learn the truth—I must find out what that thing was which was casting its awful shadow over him. Like a flash it occurred to me that in his present in Mayfair. He went there with a large party, of whom madame was one. I condition it would be easy to wrest sehave found our what that house is. It crets from his lips. I would, therefore. is an opium den, though few except its encourage him to smoke. Instead of

flice of your friend."

I started. My attention was now He did not appear. I felt desperate then, and determined to do a bold clock and took a cansom straight to his rooms. The landlady, whom I had already seen once or twice, told me miserable girl on earth."

"You have doubtless a reason for your misery," I said.

"I have. Mr. Head, you tell me you have seen John North?"

"I have was in. I went upstairs and knocked at his sitting room door, I heard his voice say, 'Come in,' and I entered. He was sitting on the sofa, and did not show the least sure and did not show the least sure least sure of the control of ave seen John North?" and did not show the least surprise at seeing me. He asked me in a low languid voice what I had come about "I was attracted by his face. I cannot exactly say that I liked it; it seemed clever—he looked intelligent."

I replied that, as he had failed to keep his appointment with me, I had come to him. As I spoke I looked around the I noticed that he had in his frequenters are aware of that fact. It blaming him, therefore, for smoking was easy for me, then, to put two and two together, and to know what was wrecking the life of the man I loved. You are a scientist, and understand pleasure which I had interrupted, and the opium vice means. It has showed him that I was much interestruined my lover, both in body and ed in the effects of opium. Low as he had fallen, he evidently did not like to "This is terribly sad." I answered, indulge in the horrible habit in my but I cannot quite understand what it has to do with Dufrayer." indulge in the horrible habit in my presence; but I would not hear to his denying himself. I even helped him to has to do with Dufrayer."

"I am coming to that part," she replied. "After I had seen him enter the opium saloon. I began to watch John North more closely than ever, and soon I had strong reason to suspect that he was burdened by a great and very terrible secret. I seemed to read this fact in his eyes, in his manner. He avoided my glance, his gaiety left him, he became more gloomy and depressed hour by hour. My mother lives here, and more under the influence of the prepared opium into the bowl of the pipe. I smiled sently at him as the heavy aromatic soothing and calming him. He began to enter into the fun of the thing, as he called it, and asked me to seat myself by his side. I felt sick and trembling, but never for a moment did my resolution fail me. As he got more and more under the influence of the prepared opium into the bowl of the pipe. I smiled sently at him as the heavy aromatic soothing and calming him. He began to enter into the fun of the thing, as he called it, and asked me to seat myself by his side. I felt sick and trembling, but never for a moment did my resolution fail me. As he got more and more of the prepared opium into the bowl of the pipe. I smiled secret up round his nostrils, soothing and calming him. He began to enter into the fun of the thing, as he called it, and asked me to seat myself by his side. I felt sick and trembling, but never for a moment did my resolution fail me. As he got more and more of the prepared opium into the bowl of the pipe. I smiled the pipe. I smi

CAN NOT BE RUBBED AWAY

my mind that pursuit was useless, and returned to the town.

"Have you seen or heard anything since of the mysterious youth?" I asked.

"Nothing whatever. What do you think of his warning? Is it possible that I am really in danger? Is Mine Koluchy mixed up in this affair?"

I paused before replying, then I said will am really in danger? Is mensorable that I am really in this affair."

I paused before replying, then I said slowly:

"As madame is in existence, and as the youth, whoever he was, happened to know your name, there is just a possible to the first the door open and now of the first the door open and now of the door open and now of the girl which had admitted by my host himself. That will do, North." he centinued, turning but the girl down on that table. Susan. "Put it down on that table. Susan." "Put it down on that table. Susan." "Put it down on that table as witnesses. I shall be at the office early tomorrow." The poung man in question, who had a pale, dark face, and gray, sensitive executed as a possible." I replied gravely: "my friend is no coward. The young man in question, who had a pale, dark face, and gray, sensitive executed that the door open followed, turning that the first the door open followed, the put it down on that table. Susan." "Put it down on that table. Susan." The p The life of an accused man hangs on his remaining in town—need I say more?"

| Self. took his leave. |

left the room. "I have been in great that headache; it was necessary to Jo more severe because of the constant accumulation of acid in the blood. All food taken into the body contains, in some form, the elements necessary to "Have I not followed the thing step by eral languages. He has been with me dicine, and so keeping her out of the nourish and sustain the different parts. One portion is used for the making of blood,

another for muscle, another for bone, another clerk who really possesses a head on first-class plane tuner, Mr. Head," for fat, and so on. After these different propished almost as soon as it came. "But erties have been extracted there still remains a portion that is useless, or waste "He does," Ie replied. "I told you matter, which is intended to be carried off by nature; but the sluggish, inactive condition years, sometimes it grew worse until it was misery to "But, after all, Miss Fancourt has reealed nothing.
"Because at present she only susbut before I do so will you give me
"But, after all, Miss Fancourt has regcing to give you my full confidence;
but before I do so will you give me
workings of nature, and this refuse is left in the system to sour and form uric and other acids, which are absorbed into the blood. The "I cannot do that," I replied, "but if I find that you are a friend to me, I acrid, irritating matter in the circulation settles in the joints, muscles, nerves and bones, and it is this that produce's the pain, inflammation, swelling and other disagreeable symptoms of Rheumatism.

Unless the blood is cleansed of the uric acid poison Rheumatism becomes chronic, and a serious and dangerous disease. The pains Rheumatism was since. I am 65 years old and feel deeply grateful to S. S. S." which at first were wandering or shifting from

place to place become sharp and cutting, the muscles lose their elasticity, and as the irritating sediment is deposited in the joints, stiffness of the limbs takes place and sometimes the hands, feet, arms or legs become permanently locked and useless.

To effect a permanent cure the blood must be purified, the acid poison counteracted



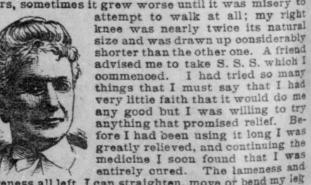
and all irritating matter removed from the circulation, and nothing does this so quickly or surely as S. S. S. It contains not only purifying and tonic properties, but solvent qualities as well, all these being necessary in the cure of Rheumatism. S. S. S. goes down to the very bottom of the trouble and attacks the disease at its head, and after it has filtered out of the blood all acrid and impure matter it adds freshness and vigor to the circulation. Then instead of being a weak, sour

stream, distributing uric acid to the different parts of the system, it is strong and healthy, and therefore able to supply the body with nourishment and strength.

S. S. S. is Nature's remedy, made entirely of roots, herbs and barks, and is the one nedicine that is absolutely harmless to any part of the system and at the same time a certain cure for Rheumatism. Write us about your case and our physicians will give you any needed medical advice, and will send our special book on Rheumatism. No charge made for the book or advice. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC COMPANY, ATLANTA, GA.

RHEUMATISM CURED BY S. S. S.

Mrs. Ida M. Palmer, of 196 Fulton St., Brooklyn, N. Y., writes as follows: "I wish you to know what great benefit I have received from the use of S. S. S. I have been afflicted with Rheumatism for twenty attempt to walk at all; my right knee was nearly twice its natural size and was drawn up considerably shorter than the other one. A friend advised me to take S. S. S. which I



soreness all left, I can straighten, move or bend my leg as well as any one and I have never known what

